

# FERRY BOAT DISCRETIONARY (FBD) PROGRAM FY 2009 PROJECT APPLICATION

1. **State:** Georgia
2. **County:** Chatham
3. **U.S. Congressional District No.(s):** 1 & 12
4. **U.S. Congressional District Member's Name(s):** Jack Kingston (1)  
John Barrow (12)
5. **Project Designation (Title):** Savannah River Ferry System (SRFS) – Capital Maintenance
6. **Project Location (Service Termini and Ports):** Savannah, GA
7. **Ownership/Operation:** Public  
Vessel repairs and parts: Chatham Area Transit Authority  
Docks: GA International and Maritime Trade Center Authority  
Operation: Chatham Area Transit Authority
8. **Proposed Work:** See attached schedule. Project includes landside support facilities (docks, shelter, etc.) and vessel capital maintenance.
9. **Total Project Cost:** \$594,000. See attached schedule.
10. **Amount of Federal FBD Funds Requested (up to 80% of project cost):** \$475,000
11. **Project Purpose & Benefits:** The SRFS is a community-based passenger ferry transit system operating in the Savannah River, between points on the downtown Savannah riverfront and Hutchinson Island. The system uses one or two all-weather Sub-Chapter T ferry vessels in regular daily operations, generally 17 hours / day, 360+ days / year. Normal system lift is 300-500 passengers per hour; maximum 1,225 passengers per hour. SRFS has been in uninterrupted operation since 2001; and the only US water ferry system with USCG certification to operate across (v. along) a Federal commercial waterway.  
  
Current SRFS vessels and dock facilities have been in service from 8 to 10 years, and are in significant need of capital improvement and repairs. These assets are generally in service 17 hours per day; and have not had the benefit of major capital repairs since entering service. SRFS is the main transit connection between downtown Savannah and the growing convention-hotel, commercial and residential facilities on Hutchinson Island. It serves commuting workers, visitors and residents in approximately equal measures. It is critical to the expansion of downtown onto the island which is already underway.
12. **Project Schedule:** All projects (see attachment) will be obligated NLT April 30, 2010.